Daimler Chrysler AG

Patent Claims

1. A control system for a vehicle having
   - a screen display (2) with a plurality of display areas (210 to 250) for displaying entries of a menu structure with a plurality of menu levels,
   - a manual actuating means (3) for selecting and/or activating at least one entry (1.1 to 5.7) in a current menu level from the menu structure,
   - voice control means (6) for redundantly selecting and/or activating at least one entry from the menu structure which simultaneously forms a keyword for the voice control means (6), characterized in that the entries (1.1 to 5.7) of the menu structure are divided into various groups,
   - a first group comprising entries which can be selected and/or activated only with the manual actuating means (3),
   - a second group comprising entries which can be selected and/or activated with the manual actuating means (3) and/or the voice control means (6), and
   - the second group being divided into at least two groups of terms which can be defined by simple rules and which determine which keywords can be input at a particular time for the purpose of menu control.

2. The control system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that keywords which are displayed on the screen display (2) have an identifier.

3. The control system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that a first group of terms comprises keywords which are displayed at a particular time in an active display area (210 to 250) of the screen display (2) and which are made available to the voice control means (6) as a first partial vocabulary.

4. The control system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that a second group of terms comprises local keywords which are made available to the voice control means (6) as a second partial vocabulary in addition to the first partial vocabulary, and are dependent on the current menu level.

5. The control system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that a third group of terms comprises global keywords which are made available to the voice control means (6) as a third partial vocabulary in addition to the first and second partial vocabularies, and are independent of the current menu level and/or of the active display area.

6. The control system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that when at least one of the keywords is input by voice, the same function is carried out as in the case of a corresponding manual input with the manual actuating means (3).

7. The control system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that when at least one of the keywords is input by voice, a function which is restricted compared to a corresponding manual input is carried out, the restriction of the function being dependent on the current menu level and/or on the active display area of the screen display (2).

8. The control system as claimed in one of claims 2 to 7, characterized in that the identification of the keyword in a displayed list is a numbering system of

the entries which can be selected by voice input, it being possible to input the corresponding numeral or the corresponding entry by voice in order to select and/or activate an entry.

9. The control system as claimed in one of claims 2 to 8, characterized in that the identification of the entries which can be input by voice is a particular visual representation on the screen display (2).

10. The control system as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the identification of the entries which can be input by voice can be brought about by means of a different color and/or a different intensity and/or a different size and/or a different shape.

11. The control system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that when a keyword which is assigned to at least two groups of terms is input, the function which is assigned to the current menu level and/or the active display area is carried out.

12. The control system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the screen display (2) comprises five main display areas (210 to 250), the first group comprising entries of the first and/or of the third display area (210, 230).

13. The control system as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the second group comprises all the text entries of the first and/or second and/or third and/or fourth and/or fifth display area (210 to 250).

14. The control system as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the third group of terms comprises keywords for entries of the second and/or fifth display area (220, 250).

15. The control system as claimed in claim 13 or 14, characterized in that the second group of terms comprises keywords for entries of the third and/or fourth and/or fifth display area (230, 240, 250).

16. The control system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that the groups of terms comprise keywords for dynamic entries which are dependent on current peripheral conditions and/or current system states.